

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 28, 1999

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 5, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 300

Introduced by Assembly Member Corbett
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Alquist)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Honda, Keeley, Knox, and
Scott)
(Coauthors: Senators Baca and Solis)

February 8, 1999

An act to add Section 17317 to the Education Code, relating to school facilities, *and making an appropriation therefor.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 300, as amended, Corbett. Seismic safety: schools.

Existing law, commonly known as the Field Act, requires that school buildings, as defined, for use in kindergarten, and grades 1 to 14, inclusive, meet certain structural safety requirements. Under the Field Act, plans for the construction, reconstruction, or alteration of any school building must be approved by the Department of General Services, as specified.

This bill would require the Department of General Services to conduct a seismic safety survey of public school buildings housing kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, and submit a report to the Legislature and the Governor by December 31, 2001, summarizing its findings and making recommendations.

~~The bill would only become operative if the Legislature appropriates at least \$500,000 to the department in the Budget Act of 1999 for the seismic safety survey. The bill would require the Department of General Services to seek federal funding for the purposes of conducting a seismic safety survey to identify the most vulnerable school buildings in the state. If the Department of General Services does not secure federal funding by January 31, 2000, the bill would make an appropriation by authorizing the department to expend up to \$500,000 from the Public School Planning, Design, and Construction Review Revolving Fund for the cost of completing the survey.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: ~~no~~ yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares the
2 following:

3 (a) California's "lucky streak" of not having an
4 earthquake during school hours is still enjoyed today, but
5 that good fortune cannot be relied on forever. It is likely
6 that a damaging earthquake will strike the state during
7 school hours in the future, and if it does, pupils are likely
8 to be harmed due to partial or full structural collapse, as
9 well as due to nonstructural failures of some older
10 buildings that have been approved pursuant to the Field
11 Act.

12 (b) Fifty percent of the state's 60,000 school buildings
13 housing pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12,
14 inclusive, that have been approved pursuant to the Field
15 Act, were built prior to 1976 when significant seismic
16 requirements were added to the regulations for the Field
17 Act. As a result, a major earthquake may cause significant
18 ~~loss of school functions and property damage and may~~
19 ~~cause~~ *loss of school functions, property damage, and*
20 injuries to pupils and teachers. A small but significant
21 number of schools approved pursuant to the Field Act are
22 prone to collapse because they were built in accordance
23 with older regulations that are now considered obsolete.



1 (c) Before any meaningful solution may be developed,
2 the scope of the problem needs to be quantified. This
3 measure would do just that, which in turn will enable
4 policymakers to make informed, cost-effective decisions
5 to address the problem.

6 (d) Studies have been completed for hospitals,
7 bridges, state and local governments, and community
8 colleges. It is reasonable to do the same for schools that
9 house pupils enrolled in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12,
10 inclusive.

11 SEC. 2. Section 17317 is added to the Education Code,
12 to read:

13 17317. The Department of General Services shall
14 conduct a seismic safety survey of the state's public school
15 buildings that house kindergarten and grades 1 to 12,
16 inclusive, giving first priority to surveying the school
17 buildings in the oldest, most densely occupied school
18 districts. inclusive. The scope of this survey shall be
19 limited to the following types of school buildings:

20 (a) Concrete tilt-up.

21 (b) Nonductile reinforced concrete.

22 (c) Buildings with irregular configurations.

23 (d) Buildings that have suffered unrepaired dry rot or
24 termite damage. The Department of General Services
25 shall submit a report by December 31, 2001, to the
26 Legislature and the Governor that summarizes the
27 findings of the seismic safety survey and makes
28 recommendations about future actions that should be
29 taken to address the problems found by the seismic safety
30 survey.

31 ~~SEC. 3. Section 17317 of the Education Code shall~~
32 ~~only become operative if an appropriation of at least five~~
33 ~~hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) is made to the~~
34 ~~Department of General Services in the Budget Act of~~
35 ~~1999 for the purposes of conducting a seismic safety~~
36 ~~survey and identifying the most vulnerable school~~
37 ~~buildings in the State of California.~~

38 SEC. 3. The Department of General Services shall
39 seek federal funding for the purposes of conducting a
40 seismic safety survey pursuant to Section 17317 of the

1 *Education Code to identify the most vulnerable school*
2 *buildings in the state. If the Department of General*
3 *Services does not secure federal funding by January 31,*
4 *2000, the department may expend up to five hundred*
5 *thousand dollars (\$500,000) from the Public School*
6 *Planning, Design, and Construction Review Revolving*
7 *Fund for the cost of completing the survey.*

